

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of creating partitions in a removable device capable of accepting a continuous removable media, said method ~~being~~ characterized ~~by comprising the steps of:~~

~~communicating between an operating system and a device driver in a computer system capable of connecting with a removable device in order to request an allocation of one or more drive letters to said removable device;~~

~~storing a maximum number of partitions that can be allocated in said removable media regardless of whether or not said removable media is loaded in said removable device;~~

~~creating partitions in the removable device independent of the removable media; reserving, within an internal work area of said operating system, areas corresponding to said maximum number of partitions, each of said areas including information which indicates whether a respective partition exists on said removable media; and~~

~~allocating drive letters in number equal to a number of plural drives to said continuous removable media said one or more drive letters based on a number of said areas reserved within said internal work area of said removable device, when said device driver allocates drive letters to said operating system.~~

2. (Original) The method of creating partitions in a removable device according to claim 1, wherein the number of said drives is equal to a maximum number of partitions supported by said operating system.

3. (Original) The method of creating partitions in a removable device according to claim 2, wherein:

said drive letters allocated to the single unit of said removable device remain valid until being reallocated again; and

a number of drive letters derived by subtracting a number of partitions on a medium within said removable device from the number of said drive letters is recognized as being absence of any medium.

4. (Original) The method of creating partitions in a removable device according to claim 1, wherein said drive letters comprise arbitrary characters allocated by an operator.

5. (Original) A medium having a program recorded therein for creating a plurality of partitions in the removable device as recited in claim 1.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of using the operating system to allocate to the removable media the plurality of drive letters so that the removable media is divided into partitions corresponding to the number of drive letters.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the number of allocated plural drives is equal to a maximum number of supportable partitions for the removable device and the operating system is informed of the maximum number of supported partitions.

8. (Previously Presented) A method of creating partitions according to claim 1, wherein said drive letters are sequential with further drive letters allocated to hard disk drives.

9. (New) A method of creating partitions according to claim 1, wherein said removable media is recognized as a plurality of drives, regardless of whether or not said removable media is loaded in said removable device.